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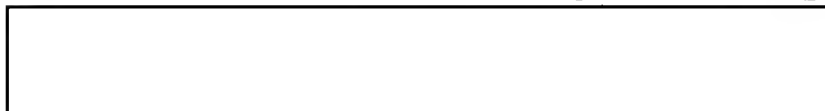
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Vietnam: Communist statements in the Paris talks this week were unusually forthright in spelling out objections to President Nixon's peace proposals of 14 May.

The Liberation Front's Tran Buu Kiem reinforced the impression that the basic Communist objection to allied proposals to date is that they do not provide adequate security to ensure even the survival of the Communist apparatus, much less its right to establish a legitimate political power base. Kiem made this point once in saying that US proposals for mutual withdrawal would leave Communist forces at the mercy of South Vietnamese military operations, and again in rejecting elections conducted under the aegis of the present Saigon government.

Kiem repeated the idea in the Front's ten points that "neither party shall impose its political regime" on the South during an interim period between a cease-fire and general elections. He also repeated the Front's proposal for a "provisional coalition government" in this period which would, among other things, organize and supervise elections. Kiem clearly left room for bargaining on this key point, however. He did not insist that the Front's proposal was the only way to tackle the problem of interim political authority, but only that the situation required a "provisional administration" to attend to "necessary work following the restoration of peace."

Hanoi's Xuan Thuy concentrated on the question of troop withdrawal. Despite his hostile language, Thuy indicated more clearly than ever the way the Communists hope to handle this matter. He obliquely suggested that the method used to get around the bombing halt impasse last year--the so-called "understanding"--might also be suitable to resolve the troop withdrawal issue.

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He did this by comparing what he called the US demand for Communist reciprocity on troop withdrawals to the Johnson administration's demand in connection with the bombing halt. As the Communists did on the bombing issue, Xuan Thuy flatly ruled out any possibility that Hanoi would accept the concept of reciprocity.

Xuan Thuy is leaving Paris today for his first trip back to Hanoi since the talks started more than a year ago. His return probably was prompted by a need to take stock of the situation in the wake of President Nixon's peace initiatives and to devise new tactics to cope with them. The US move came just after the top North Vietnamese official in Paris, Le Duc Tho, had returned from nearly three months of consultations in Hanoi. Another trip by Tho at this time probably would have conveyed an impression of disarray in the Vietnamese Communist camp.

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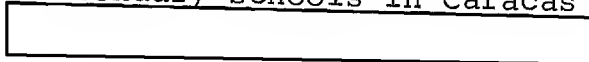
Venezuela: Nationwide student violence has intensified and taken on anti-US overtones.

In Maracaibo, the country's second city, students stoned the US Consulate on 21 May, alleging US interference in university matters. In Caracas, students took over the university's cultural office, calling it a "servant of North American imperialism."

While violence went into its third day in Maracaibo, martial law was declared in the nearby town of Cabimas after 20 persons were injured in clashes between high school students and police. In Mérida, southwest of the capital, violence has continued sporadically for ten days and students are demanding the resignation of the state governor.

A shooting incident at Central University in Caracas on Thursday in which six members of rival student groups were wounded was followed by new clashes between police and students yesterday. Numerous cases of sniping and other violence have been reported.

As a result of these incidents the army has been put on alert. Secondary schools in Caracas have been closed.



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Latin America: Demonstrations are being planned against Governor Rockefeller in most of the countries he will visit beginning on Tuesday. Some violence may occur in a few of the countries.

In Colombia, where the Governor will begin the second of his four trips, several youth and student groups intend to create disturbances in order to embarrass or harass the Governor.

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In Ecuador there are persistent rumors that students and others will try to create trouble during the Governor's visit on 29 May, but there is no firm information as yet that mass demonstrations are being planned. Student disturbances have been going on in Ecuador for over a month, and it is possible some violence could take place designed primarily to embarrass the Velasco government.

Bolivian student leaders reportedly have agreed to hold demonstrations upon the Governor's arrival in La Paz on 30 or 31 May. The students also hope to get workers and peasants into the streets.

Venezuelan authorities are quite concerned about the security situation there because of growing student agitation and violence that is becoming increasingly anti-US. Government concern over the Governor's safety has led to a recommendation that he stay at the Caracas military officers' club rather than at a hotel.

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Costa Rica: The Communists appear to be benefiting from violence that has again erupted at the Caribbean port of Limon in connection with an illegal strike of stevedores.

The conflict arose last month when the government refused severance pay to workers after administration of the docks was transferred from a rail line to a government agency. Communist agitators moved in and gained the almost unanimous support of workers for a broader list of demands; workers then defied a court ruling and struck on 20 May.

Rail yards have been shut down except for passenger traffic, and all schools and many businesses have closed. Strike breakers from other areas have been brought to the outskirts of Limon, and more violence can be expected if the government decides to use them.

Pressure on the government to end the strike is increasing as more and more banana growers are affected. One company claims its losses now exceed \$250,000.

A victory for the workers would give a big boost to the Communists' potential in the generally weak trade union movement, and would increase their limited political influence. This in turn would improve the Communists' chances for persuading the legislature to legalize their front, the Bloc of Workers, Farmers, and Intellectuals, so that it might participate in next February's general elections.

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Netherlands-Indonesia: The Dutch government has moved to blunt domestic criticism of its policy regarding implementation of the 1962 agreement transferring control of West Irian (formerly Dutch New Guinea) to Indonesia.

In response to pressures from some members of parliament and the press, Foreign Minister Luns met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik in Rome earlier this week. Luns' purpose was to convey the Dutch parliament's concern over certain of Indonesia's procedures in implementing the 1962 agreement.

Much of the criticism in the Netherlands has focused on Luns. He is charged with not having done enough to assure the New Guinea natives a voice during the period from 10 July to 3 August when an "act of free choice" is to be carried out. Dutch opinion has been particularly skeptical about Indonesia's plan for "mutual consultation" with selected leaders of various political and tribal groups in the territory as opposed to some kind of Western-style expression of free choice.

On his return from Rome, Luns told parliament that Malik had assured him West Irian would be open to foreign observers who would be allowed to see the natives exercise their free choice using the "consultative" system. According to Luns, the United Nations has indicated satisfaction with the Indonesian procedure.

This latest spate of criticism of the foreign minister reflects a lingering resentment over the 1962 agreement by many Netherlanders--including Luns himself--who believe that it was forced on The Hague by some of its closest allies.

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Ethiopia: Rumors of important cabinet changes--including the foreign and education ministers--are again circulating in Addis Ababa.

Haile Selassie reshuffled his cabinet only last February in an attempt to dampen criticism of his government and of his lack of new approaches to economic and political problems. No significant changes in policy resulted, however, and discontent among students, educated civil servants, and some high government officials has continued unabated.

Since February the government has been unable to solve the problem of widespread student unrest that has been contributing to a general feeling of tension in Addis Ababa and other urban areas. Moreover, the Eritrean Liberation Front has recently stepped up its insurgent activities, adding a further burden to the government and the military.

Whether the Emperor actually intends, however, to make drastic changes in government policy or bring younger and more capable individuals into the cabinet at this time is questionable.

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25X1 Italy: The Socialist Party has postponed further sessions of its central committee until 23 June in an effort to avoid a government crisis and a definitive split in the party. Before reaching this decision, a group proposing new leadership won support from 62 of the 121 members of the committee. The group agreed to defer further action while it seeks a rapprochement with right-wing Socialists who have been threatening to leave the government and the party unless they are represented in the leadership. [REDACTED]

* * * *

Afghanistan: The government is under increasing pressure to quiet student unrest in Kabul. It is concerned that demonstrations, which have been recurring since 13 May, will mar the brief stopover tomorrow by Secretary Rogers and the five-day visit by Soviet Premier Kosygin beginning on 26 May. Both legitimate and unreasonable academic grievances underlie the current wave of discontent, which has provoked stiff police retaliation. Removal of most police units from the streets has reduced chances for further clashes, but unless some of the students' demands are met, the situation is likely to remain tense. [REDACTED]

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25X1 Morocco-USSR: A Moroccan military delegation has accepted an invitation to visit the USSR in July, [REDACTED]

25X1 [REDACTED] the purpose of the visit is "to test the atmosphere," not to acquire arms. The Western-oriented King over the past few years has been expanding his relations with the USSR. [REDACTED]

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